

Pima County



*Caring for Today,
Sustaining the Future*



PIMA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

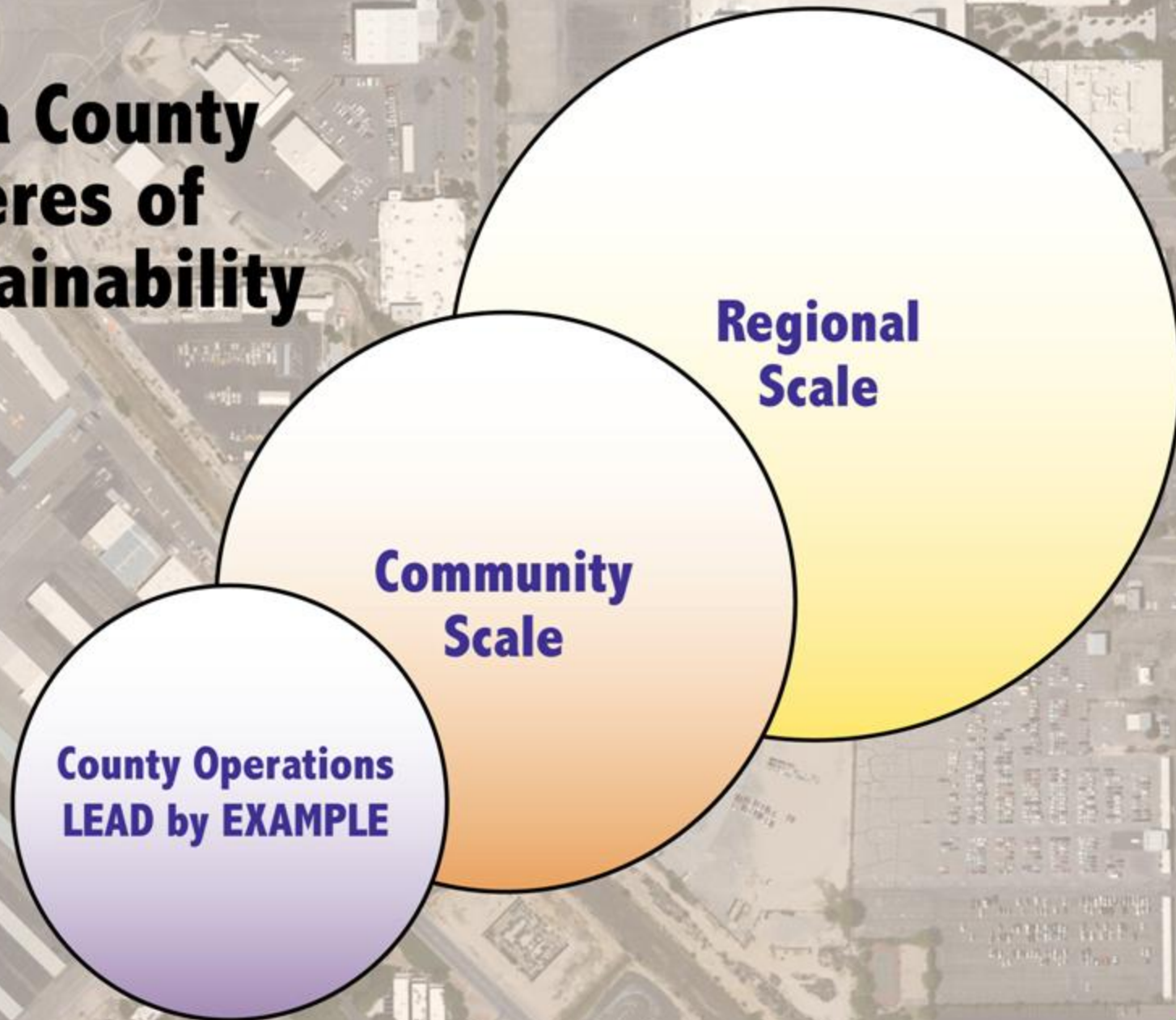


On May 1, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2007-84 setting forth a series of initiatives that promote and advance sustainability in the areas of:

- Green Building
- Renewable Energy
- Alternative Fuels
- Waste Reduction
- Green Purchasing
- Water Conservation and Management
- Social Well-Being, Opportunity & Equity



Pima County Spheres of Sustainability

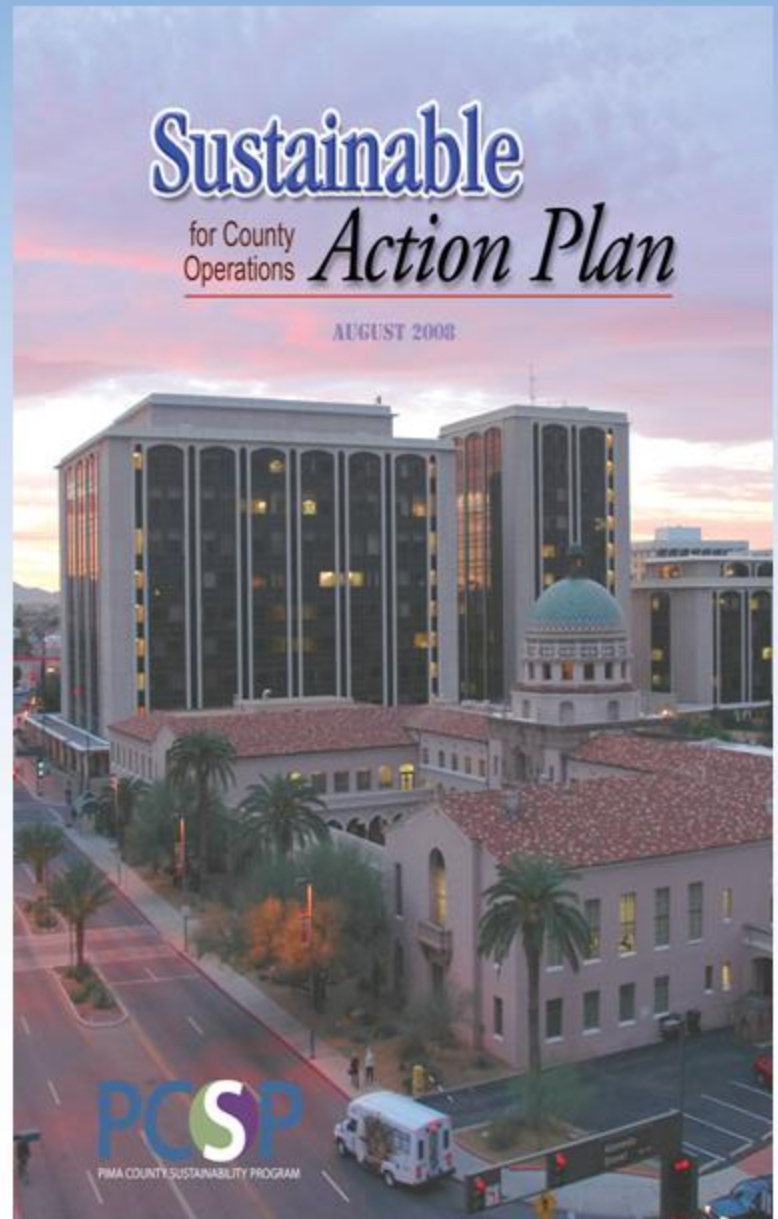


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Planning for the first phase is completed!

- Board adopted the plan on August 18, 2008
- Sustainability “report card” will be issued annually
- Received the Association for Operations Management “Innovation in Sustainability Award of Excellence”
- Plan available at www.pima.gov





REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Goal:

Join communities throughout the world in confronting global climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of County Operations.

Guiding Principles:

- *Inventory and monitor GHG emissions as an overarching measure of the County's progress toward sustainability;*
- *Stay abreast of new developments in the science of global climate change and ways to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change on the health and quality of life of Pima County residents, natural ecosystems and our economy.*

Key Actions Include:

- *Offer support and assistance to the City of Tucson Climate Change Committee and evaluate recommendations for possible adaptation and action by the County*





GREEN BUILDING

- All new buildings constructed to LEED Silver standards
- Encouraging LEED accreditation for County staff
- Pima County launched first Residential Green Building Standards in So. Arizona.
 - Free, voluntary program
 - Homes certified at bronze, silver or gold levels
 - Endorsed by SAHBA, USGBC, MEC, Tucson Botanical Gardens
- Pima County first public agency in the country to be awarded “LEED for Homes” provider status.
- Offer Weatherization programs, Neighborhood Stabilization
Manufactured Housing Replacement Programs



OTHER GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES

- Explore requiring at least 50% of homes built after 2010 to include solar hot water or PV systems
- Amend land use regulations to require new houses on septic systems to be provided with a greywater re-use system
- Revise design and construction standards to promote water harvesting and use of light-colored, permeable pavement for roads and parking lots



New Comprehensive Plan Policies

- Proposed developments that require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment or rezoning must prepare a “water resources impact evaluation” that includes projected water demand, water supply options, and water conservation measures.



- “Sustainability assessments” are now part of large-scale Comprehensive Plan Amendments
 - **Pilot project: 70-square mile Southwest Infrastructure Plan (SWIP) Amendment**



RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION

- Signed master agreements with two solar companies that could supply up to 6MW of solar energy to County facilities
- Identified and mapped more than 3,000 acres of County-owned land that is potentially suitable for renewable energy facilities
- Pima County has contacted TEP and ACC to express interest in forming a public-private partnership to establish a 20 MW utility-scale solar power plant on County-owned land
- Conduct County-wide energy audit to identify energy savings programs and retrofits



ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

Goal: Use alternative fuels in 25% of fleet vehicles, or a minimum of 100 vehicles, by 2008; 30% by 2009; and 50% by 2010.

- Purchase hybrid replacement vehicles
- Aggressive right-sizing effort underway
- Adopted anti-idling policy
- Expand Driver Energy Conservation Awareness Training
- Create a green bike program
- 21 web conferencing facilities available
- Discounted bus pass program for employees



WASTE REDUCTION

Goal: Apply a waste reduction emphasis to all County facilities.

- Dramatically expanded County recycling program
- Each Department has an “Eco Champion” to coordinate recycling activities in their department
- All vendors, lessees of County sites will be required to develop an integrated waste management plan
- Active surplus property program; recycled more than 6,000 pieces of furniture & equipment and auctioned 318 vehicles and machines
- Exploring possibility of converting closed landfills to renewable energy facilities



LAND CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Own and manage over 150,000 acres for conservation
- Apply environmentally-sensitive road design guidelines in sensitive areas
- Track and evaluate impacts to natural and cultural resources using GIS and on-the-ground monitoring activities
- Establish an interagency invasive species work group to address buffelgrass impacts



WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

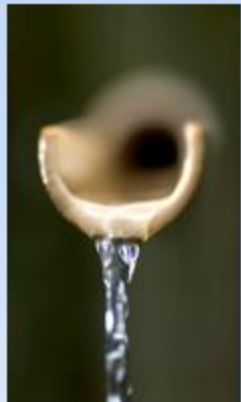
Goals: Cut water use in all County facilities by 15% by 2025; double the parks served by reclaimed water by 2018; maximize water resource assets to sustain and protect the natural environment.

Action items:

- Develop uniform water fixture standards that will maximize water conservation
- Develop new wastewater conveyance standards that account for greywater re-use and other emerging conservation trends
- Use rainwater harvesting, native plants, and pervious surface materials for County roads, medians and parking lots
- Develop water policies and agreements that preserve the base flow of the Santa Cruz River, enhance habitat, and improve water quality

Successes:

Eliminated acres of non-functional turf at County parks; use reclaimed water to irrigate 9 County parks and 20 miles of Rillito River Park trails; partnering with the U of A to evaluate water saving benefits of irrigation “smart controllers” at 16 parks



*Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world; indeed,
it's the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead



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